

I & P Minister replies to question about “changing temporary identity cards into Citizenship Scrutiny Cards”

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March -At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, U Zaw Kir Ahmed (a) U Aung Zaw Win of Maungtaw Constituency said that 90 per cent of population in Maungtaw of Rakhine State are Temporary Identity Card holders and are encountering difficulties in their education, travelling and business matters. It causes losses not only for the people but for the State. Similar grievances occur in other townships of Rakhine State. He asked when authorities concerned will take measures to change the temporary identity cards of locals in Maungtaw and other townships into Citizenship Scrutiny Cards.

Regarding the question, Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo replied that there were The Union Citizenship Act, 1948 and Union Citizenship Act, 1948 which allowed foreigners, half-breeds and those who are on suspicion of citizenship who are residing in the Union of Myanmar before Myanmar Citizenship Law was promulgated on 15 October 1982 to apply for naturalized citizenship. Those who want to apply for naturalized citizenship and live beyond doubt regarding the matter as to whether or not they are citizens can follow these Acts. The State conferred citizenships on those who follow prescribed laws. They have acquired citizenships according to law till posterity.

After enacting Myanmar Citizenship Law on 15 October, 1982, it was stated that citizens prescribed in the following sections are allowed to hold National Registration Cards.

(A) Section (3): Nationals such as the Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine or Shan and ethnic groups as have settled in any of the territories included within the State as their permanent home from a period anterior to 1185 B.E., 1823 A.D. are Burma citizens.

(B) Section (5): Every national and every person born of parents, both of whom are nationals are citizens by birth.

(C) Section (6): A person who is already a citizen on the date this Law comes into force is a citizen. Action, however, shall be taken under section 18 for infringement of the provision of that section. (Section-18 says“ A citizen who has acquired citizenship by making a false representation or by concealment shall have his citizenship revoked, and shall also be liable to imprisonment for a term of ten years and to a fine of kyat fifty thousand.)

(D) Section (7): The following persons born in or outside the State are also citizens:

(a) persons born of parents, both of whom are citizens;

(b) persons born of parents, one of whom is a citizen and the other an associate citizen;

(c) persons born of parents, one of whom and the other a naturalized citizen;

(d) persons born of parents one of whom is a citizen; or an associate citizen; or a naturalized citizen and the other is born of parents, both of whom are associate citizens;

(e) persons born of parents, one of whom is a citizen; or an associate citizen; or a naturalized citizen; and the other is born of parents, both of whom are naturalized citizens;

(f) persons born of parents one of whom is a citizen; or an associate citizen; or a naturalized citizen; and the other is born of parents, one of whom is an associate citizen and the other a naturalized citizen.

If firm evidences are not shown, naturalization cannot be made. Persons have been made citizens or foreigners who are suspected of citizenship. Persons who have entered and resided in the State anterior to 4th January, 1948, and their offspring born within the State may apply under Section 42 and 43 of Myanmar Citizenship Law, 1982 for naturalized citizenship as follow:-

(A) Section (42): Persons who have entered and resided in the State anterior to 4th January, 1948, and their offspring born within the State may, if they have not yet applied under the union Citizenship Act, 1948, apply for naturalized citizenship to the Central Body, furnishing conclusive evidences.

(B) Section (43): The following persons born in or outside the State from the date this Law comes into force may also apply for naturalized citizenship:

(1) persons born of parents one of whom is a citizen and the other a foreigner;

(2) persons born of parents, one of whom is an associate citizen and the other a naturalized citizen;

(3) persons born of parents, one of whom is an associate citizen and the other a foreigner;

(4) persons born of parents, both of whom are naturalized citizens;

(5) persons born of parents, one of whom is a naturalized citizen and the other a foreigner.

However, it is required to have the following qualifications prescribed in Section (44). They are as follow:-

(a) be a person who conforms to the provisions of section 42 or section 43;

(b) have completed the age of eighteen years;

(c) be able to speak well one of the national languages;

(d) be of good character;

(e) be of sound mind.

So it is necessary to collect and submit firm evidences and facts of a person and his forefathers for ensuring a right to hold a certain kind of card in accord with the law.

As the Ministry of Religious and Immigration has been formed with the aim of ensuring to enjoy rights by the national races and other races who are living in Rakhine State in accord with Immigration and Citizenship Laws, the procedure for issuing cards will be carried out as soon as possible after receiving directives and decisions of respective hluttaws and the government.

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